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IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Marc DEBLOCK Conf.: 3779  
Appl. No.: 09/461,416 Group: 1661  
Filed: December 16, 1999 Examiner: M. Kizilkaya  
For: GENETIC TRANSFORMATION USING A PARP  
INHIBITOR

REPLY UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

December 18, 2002

Sir:

In reply to the Examiner's Office Action dated June 18, 2002, the due date having been extended three (3) months to December 18, 2002 by petition herein, the following amendments and remarks are respectfully submitted in connection with the above-identified application.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please replace claim 24 with the following amended claim:

24. (Twice Amended) A method for assessing *in vitro* the agronomical fitness of a plant as measured by its seed yield comprising the steps of:

a) subjecting an explant of said plant to a stress condition;